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NASA Procedural Requirements

COMPLIANCE IS MANDATORY**NPR 8735.2A**Effective Date: August 02,
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Request Notification of Change

 (NASA Only)

Subject: Management of Government Quality Assurance Functions for NASA Contracts

Responsible Office: Office of Safety and Mission Assurance[| TOC](#) | [ChangeHistory](#) | [Preface](#) | [Chapter1](#) | [Chapter2](#) | [Chapter3](#) | [Chapter4](#) | [Chapter5](#) |
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Appendix A. Definitions

Contract: A mutually binding legal relationship obligating the seller to furnish the supplies or services (including construction) and the buyer to pay for them. It includes all types of commitments that obligate the Government to an expenditure of appropriated funds and that, except as otherwise authorized, are in writing. In addition to bilateral instruments, contracts include (but are not limited to) awards and notices of awards; job orders or task letters issued under basic ordering agreements; letter contracts; orders, such as purchase orders, under which the contract becomes effective by written acceptance or performance; and bilateral contract modifications. Contracts do not include grants and cooperative agreements covered by 31 U.S.C. 6301 et seq. or Space Act agreements covered by 41 U.S.C. 2473.

Complex Item: A product that has quality characteristics not wholly visible in the end item, for which contract conformance cannot be determined through inspection, measurement, and/or test of the end item, and for which conformance can only be established progressively through the item's life by precise measurements, tests, and controls applied. Examples of complex items include assemblies, machinery, equipment, subsystems, systems, and platforms.

Complex Work: The design, manufacture, fabrication, assembly, testing, integration, operation, maintenance, refurbishment, or repair of complex items.

Critical: The condition where failure to comply with prescribed contract requirements can potentially result in loss of life, serious personal injury, loss of mission, or loss of a significant mission resource. Common uses of the term include critical work, critical processes, critical attributes, and critical items.

Delegated Agency: An organization providing Contract Administration Services (CAS) quality assurance support to NASA on designated contracts. Delegated agencies that provide NASA CAS support include the Defense Contract Management Agency (DCMA) and the Office of Naval Research (ONR).

Final Acceptance: The act of an authorized representative of the Government by which the Government, for itself or as an agent of another, assumes ownership of existing identified supplies tendered or approves specific services rendered as partial or complete performance of the contract.

Government Contract Quality Assurance: Quality assurance functions performed by, or for, the Government at the contract location to determine whether a contractor has fulfilled the contract obligations pertaining to contract quality. Safety, reliability, and maintainability functions are also included within the scope of this term.

Government Mandatory Inspection Point (GMIP): A specific step, sequence, or time in a product's life when a NASA-mandated product assurance action (e.g., product examination, process witnessing, record review) must be performed by NASA, a delegated Government agency, or by a NASA quality assurance support contractor.

Nadcap: An aerospace industry third party accreditation program which conducts supplier audits and provides accreditation/certification that a supplier is competent to furnish a specified product, process, or service. Nadcap

program requirements, including the criteria, terms, and governance structure for Nadcap accreditation, are provided in SAE AS7003. Details regarding Nadcap accreditation services, a list of processes for which Nadcap provides supplier accreditation, and Nadcap auditing attributes can be found at <http://www.pri-network.org/Nadcap/>.

Process Witnessing: Physical observation of a contractor test or work process to ensure that the process is being correctly performed in accordance with prescribed procedures and contract requirements.

Product Examination: Physical inspection, measurement, or test to ensure product conformity to prescribed technical/contract requirements.

Program/Project Quality Assurance Surveillance Plan (PQASP): A consolidated set of detailed instructions for the performance of Government contract quality assurance actions related to a specific program/project. Examples of PQASP contents include lists of contractor documents, data, and records to be reviewed; products and product attributes to be examined; processes and process attributes to be witnessed; quality system elements/attributes to be evaluated; sampling plans; and requirements related to quality data analysis, nonconformance reporting and corrective action tracking/resolution, and final product acceptance.

Quality Assurance Letter of Delegation (LOD): Documented instructions from NASA to a Federal Agency detailing quality assurance support responsibility and services required in support of a designated contract.

Quality Assurance Support Contractor: A non-Government entity on contract with NASA and independent of the contractor providing supplies or services that is tasked to perform specified quality assurance surveillance functions (e.g., GMIPs).

Record Review: Review and verification that recorded data properly evidences conformance to contract requirements (e.g., invoked drawings, specifications). Recorded data may document work performance, product attributes, product configuration, product performance, or quality assurance actions performed by the contractor.

Safety-Critical GMIP: GMIPs performed to ensure compliance with contract requirements that, if violated, can result in loss of life. This includes witness or verification of hardware, manufacture, assembly, integration, test, maintenance, operation, or nonconformance resolution tasks which, if incorrectly accomplished, could result in loss of life.

For terms not defined above or elsewhere in a NASA Headquarters authorized/promulgated document, the definitions provided in ISO 9000 apply.

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